

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY OF THE  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
FOR THE TIJUANA ESTUARY TIDAL RESTORATION PROGRAM II PHASE I  
(SCH # 2021050599)**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that on August 19, 2022 California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR), acting as Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), acting as the Lead Agency for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as a Cooperating Agency under NEPA, have issued for public review and comment a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIR/EIS) that evaluates potential environmental effects associated with the proposed Tijuana Estuary Tidal Restoration Program II Phase I (TETRP II Phase I).

The DEIR/EIS may be accessed on the CDPR website at [https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=983](https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=983) and on the website of the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve at <https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/>. During the state-prescribed review period, copies of the DEIR/EIS will also be available for public review at:

**Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center**, 301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932 (closed Mondays and Tuesday); telephone: 619-575-3613 for current office hours.

**California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Diego Coast District Office**, 4477 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92110; telephone: 619-688-3260 for current office hours.

**California Department of Parks and Recreation, Southern Service Center**, NTC at Liberty Station, Barracks 26, 2797 Truxtun Road, San Diego, CA 92106; telephone: 619-221-7060 for current office hours.

**Imperial Beach Branch Library**, 810 Imperial Beach Blvd., Imperial Beach, CA 91932; telephone: 619-424-6981 for current hours of operation.

**San Ysidro Branch Library**, 4235 Beyer Blvd., San Diego, CA 92173 (closed Sundays); telephone: 619-424-0475 for current hours of operation.

**DRAFT EIR/EIS PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** August 19, 2022 to October 3, 2022.

All written comments on the adequacy of the DEIR/EIS must be received by the Lead Agencies no later than **October 3, 2022**. Written comments should be submitted to:

Electronic submittals may be sent to the following email address:

Email: [fw8plancomments@fws.gov](mailto:fw8plancomments@fws.gov)

Please include "TETRP DEIR/EIS" in the email subject line

Hard copies can be mailed to the following contact and address:

Brian Collins, Refuge Manager  
USFWS, San Diego NWR Complex  
1080 Gunpowder Point Drive

Chula Vista, CA 91910  
Phone (760) 431-9440 ext. 273

Hard copies can be dropped off between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday at the following location:

Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center  
301 Caspian Way  
Imperial Beach, CA 91932  
(619) 575-3613 for current office hours

Two virtual public meetings (an afternoon meeting (1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.) and an evening meeting (6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.) will be held on Thursday, September 8, 2022, to present the project alternatives evaluated in the DEIR/EIS, as well as to summarize potential impacts and associated mitigation measures. An opportunity to ask questions will be provided, but no formal public comment will be taken. All public comments must be provided in writing, as described above. A link and access instructions to the virtual meetings will be posted here: <https://trnerr.org/about/public-notices/>.

In accordance with regulatory requirements, a 45-day public review period has been established for the DEIR/EIS. Following the close of the public review period, responses to comments on the DEIR/EIS will be prepared. Together with the DEIR/EIS, these comments will constitute the Final EIR/EIS. If you wish to challenge the CEQA Lead Agency's action on this DEIR/EIS in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or others raised in written correspondence during the public review period.

This notice of availability is required to be posted with the County Clerk's office for a period of at least thirty (30) days.

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The project site is located within the southern arm of the Tijuana Estuary, just to the east of the Pacific Ocean, in southwestern San Diego County, California. The site includes portions of both the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge and Border Field State Park and is encompassed by the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (TRNERR).

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** TETRP II Phase I has been designed to restore coastal wetlands and associated native uplands in the area surrounding the previously restored Model Marsh. Two action alternatives that would restore between 82 to 87 acres of coastal wetlands and a no project/no action alternative are described and analyzed in the DEIR/EIS. Coastal restoration is proposed to reverse ongoing degradation of coastal resources essential to the long-term survival of migratory birds, fish, and other aquatic resources, while also increasing the Tijuana Estuary's tidal prism (the volume of water coming and going with the tides) to improve water quality.

Restoration would involve the excavation of between 521,000 and 585,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment, depending upon which alternative is implemented. Between 5,000 and 7,000 cy would be reused to establish higher elevation transitional areas within the restoration footprint, while the remaining sediment could be beneficially reused for beach nourishment on-site or transported off-site for beneficial reuse at other project sites (e.g., Nelson Sloan Quarry) or for disposal (e.g., Otay Landfill). The primary differences between the two action alternatives are the amount of intertidal mudflat restored versus salt marsh habitat;

the total acreage of restored versus preserved habitats; and the number of connections provided to existing tidal channels.

Common features of the action alternatives include restoration of predominantly disturbed portions of the southern arm of Tijuana Estuary to tidal wetlands, tidal channel enhancements and new intertidal channel connections to restored habitat areas and the existing Model Marsh, incorporation of transitional habitat areas into the restoration design, and river mouth excavation, as needed, to maintain continued tidal exchange within the estuary.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:** Overall, less than significant impacts or impacts that can be mitigated to less than significant under CEQA for both alternatives include Land Use, Recreation and Public Access, Hydrology, Coastal Processes, Hazardous Materials and Public Safety, Geology/Soils, Cultural Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources, Paleontological Resources, Visual Resources, Transportation, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Noise, Public Services and Utilities, and Energy. Exceptions include the significant and unavoidable impacts that would occur for Water Quality (within Hydrology and Water Quality analysis), Biological Resources, and Air Quality.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Following the close of the public review period for the DEIR/EIS and preparation of the Final EIR/EIS, the proposed project will be reviewed by the CDPR Deputy Director of Park Operations. The CDPR Deputy Director of Park Operations will be the final authority for CDPR project approval with the exception of other regulatory agencies as described in Chapter 2, Project Description, of the EIR/EIS, that may utilize the document for additional approvals outside of the jurisdiction of CDPR. Notification of any public hearings associated with these agencies (if required) will be provided in accordance with state law and the agencies public notification requirements.